

Open Space Steering Committee

Virtual Community Meeting January 27, 2021



Agenda

- 1. Zoom Ground Rules
- 2. FOIA/Open Meetings
- 3. Update on definition and purpose
- 4. Public Access Easements
 - Discussion: Extent of public accessibility
- 5. Next Steps
- 6. Public Comment
- 7. Adjourn



Zoom Ground Rules





FOIA/Open Meetings Rules

What are the obligations of Open Space Steering Committee members related to public meetings and carrying out Committee business?

- Any gathering of 3 or more members of the Committee is an official meeting and must be open to the public (in-person/virtual).
- All Committee meetings where 3 or more members are discussing Committee business must be public noticed a minimum of 3 working days prior to the meeting day.
- Committee members are not permitted to carry out Committee business using electronic communication such as, but not limited to, email, chat rooms, instant messaging, texting, etc.
 - To avoid potential problems, it is advisable that Committee members:
 - Not use REPLY ALL to emails Respond and/or comment to <u>Ana Vicinanzo or Judy Lo</u>
 - Not initiate emails to the full Committee Coordinate communication through to <u>Ana Vicinanzo</u> or <u>Judy Lo</u>
 - When possible, wait to communicate to the full Committee at the next scheduled meeting
- Committee meetings may only occur if a Quorum is present/virtual.



Task 1 Update

- Purpose where the definition will live
 - Guidance document (examples)
- Draft definition

Draft purpose, characteristics, goals, etc.



Draft Definition

Publicly Accessible Open Space in the City of Alexandria is:

Outdoor space that has guaranteed public access with the primary purpose being formal or informal recreation; or the conservation and protection of natural, cultural, or historic resources; and which enhances the health and well-being of Alexandria.



Extent of Public Accessibility Discussion



Public Access Easements

- Typically allows "Pedestrian Ingress-Egress"
- Owner is responsible for maintenance and retains title to property
- Owner may close easement for maintenance
- Owner may close easement according to operational hours, such as sunset to sunrise each day
- City/public has full and free use of easement





Programming within Public Access Easements

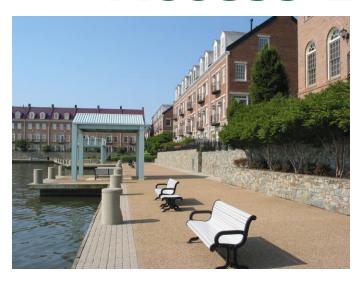
- To what extent should there be restrictions on programming and activities within the easement area? Examples:
- -Holding private or public events such as concerts-Allowing businesses or residents to vend services
- such as farmer's markets, classes or outdoor dining -How many events or programs should be allowed?







Design within Public Access Easements











Design within Public Access Easements











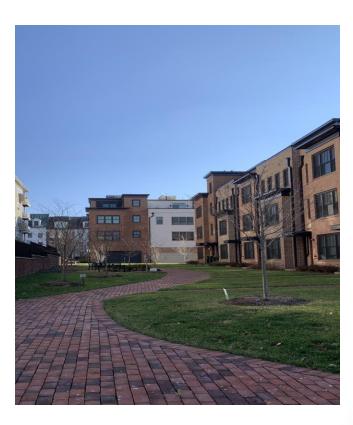


Wilkes/Payne Street Public Access









Publicly Accessible Open Space Characteristics

- How do we make publicly accessible open space feel public and not privatized?
- What are characteristics that make spaces feel public versus private?







Thank you for your input!



Next Steps

 Using the input collected from tonight's meeting staff will begin drafting extent of public accessibility on publicly accessible open space

 Staff will send out Definition, Purpose, Characteristics, and Goals document to Committee to review and edit

Next Meeting: February 24, 2021



Information & Questions

- Information
 - Open Space Planning
- Questions
 - Ana Vicinanzo, Urban Planner II <u>ana.vicinanzo@alexandriava.gov</u>
 - Judy Lo, Acting Principal Planner judy.lo@alexandriava.gov
 - Jack Browand, Division Chief <u>jack.browand@alexandriava.gov</u>



Public Comment

 Please use the "Raise Your Hand" feature or "*9" to inform staff you would like to comment.

 Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker.



Thank you!

Next meeting is February 24, 2021 at 7 p.m.